

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 ACDA-19 GAC-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01

NIC-01 /128 W

----- 009184

R 230842 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2545

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS TOKYO 3429

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, JA, UR

SUBJECT: PRIMIN TANAKA COMMENTS ON JAPANESE- SOVIET RELATIONS

SUMMARY: DURING DIET INTERPELLATIONS MARCH 22, PRIMIN TANAKA CLEARLY STATED THAT GOJ WOULD NOT RPT NOT LINK JAPANESE- SOVIET COOPERATION IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PEACE TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION. TANAKA REITERATED THAT RETURN OF ENTIRE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE TRATY. IN DEPARTURE FROM POSITION TAKEN BY PREVIOUS PRIMIN, TANAKA INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT VISIT MOSCOW PRIOR TO RESOLUTION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. AT UPPER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 22, JSP DIET-MAN KAWAMURA QUESTIONED PRIMIN TANAKA ABOUT JAPANESE POLICY TOWARD SOVIET UNION. EMBASSY TRANSLATION WITH NON- ESSENTIAL WORDS OMITTED OF NIHON KEIZEI' S DETAILED ACCOUNT OF RELEVANT

Q' S AND A' S FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION. QTE KAWAMURA: I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR GOVERNMENT' S BASIC POLICY FOR DIPLOMACY TOWARD SOVIET UNION.

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TANAKA: EVER SINCE JAPAN- SOVIET JOIN DECLARATION OF 1956, FRIENDLY RELATIONS HAVE BEEN CONTINUED BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION. LAST YEAR, FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA VISITED SOVIET UNION, AND THE FIRST ROUND OF JAPAN- SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD. THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS SLATED TO BE HELD THIS YEAR. I RECEIVED LETTER FROM FIRST SECRETARY BREZHNEV, AND SENT LETTER IN REPLY TO THIS. OUR BASIC WAY OF THINKING IS TO CONCLUDE JAPAN- SOVIET PEACE TREATY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ARE INTEREESSED IN DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIA AND YAKUTSK, EVEN FROM STANDPOINT OF JAPANESE ECONOMY, THEREFORE WE ARE HOPING TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL DEVELOPMENT WHILE MAINTAINING CONTACTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION.

KAWAMURA: YOU DID NOT TOUCH UPON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIS. IS THERE NOT A DIFFERENCE IN THE WAYS OF THINKING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER SATO?

TANAKA: REVERSION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES, THE FOUR ISLANDS, IS THE EARNEST WISH OF NATION AND PEOPLE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT UNSTINTING EFFORTS WILL BE CTINUED FOR ITS SETTLEMENT AT THE JAPAN- SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS.

WE WILL NOT TAKE VIEW OF SETTLING NORTHERN TERRITORIES QUESTION AND SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER. WE INTEND TO PUSH EACH TASK SEPARATELY, PROMOTING JEPAN- SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON THEIR OWN MERITS, WHILE PURUSING SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF BOTH NATIONS AND FOR GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

KAWAMURA: ISN' T SOVIET UNIO TAKING STRONG POSTURE TOWARD NORTHERN TERRITORIES QUESTION BECAUSE JAPAN FIRMLY MAINTAINS US- JAPAN SECURITY TREATY?

TANAKA: IT IS NOT TRUE THAT SECURITY TREATY IS AN OBSTACLE TO CONCLUSION OF JAPAN- SOVIET PEACE TREATY. EV V THE NORMALIZATION OF JAPAN- CHINA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS ACHIEVED UNDER THIS (SECURITY TREATY) STRUCTURE.

KAWAMURA: DO YOU INTEND TO DECLARE THAT NORTHERN TERRITORIES WILL BE MADE AN UNARMED AREA AFTER THEIR REVERSION?
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TANAKA: AFTER REVERSION, THEY WILL BE INCORPORATED

INTO OUR NATIONAL LAND GENERALLY. IT MAY BE DIFFERENT IF SOVIET SIDE WERE TO SAY, IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THEY WILL BE RETURNED IF MADE AN UNARMED AREA, BUT AT PRESENT TIME, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF ISSUING DECLARATION CONCERNING AN UNDECIDED QUESTION.

KAWAMURA: ARE YOU PREPARED TO PURCHASE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT WHICH SOVIET UNION INVESTED IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES?

TANAKA: IF THEY ARE TO BE RETURNED, WE WILL BUY THAT NEEDS TO BE BOUGHT.

KAWAMURA: THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD VISIT SOVIET UNION TO PROMOTE SETTLEMENT OF TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

TANAKA THE DIET IS STILL IN SESSION, AND WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON THE TIME FOR VISIT TO SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, IF THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION COMES, I WILL VISIT IT AT ANY TIME. AT SUCH A TIME, I WILL VISIT SOVIET UNION WITH INTENTION OF ENDEAVORING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER COMMUNICATION, WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT (BRINGING BACK) A SOUVENIER. UNQTE (N. B. REFERENCE TO QTE SOUVENIR UNQTE MEANS SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE.) END TRANSLATION.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO03429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaaignn.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971224
Subject: PRIMIN TANAKA COMMENTS ON JAPANESE- SOVIET RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, UR
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO HONG KONG
MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005